

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02

PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 /167 R

DRAFTED BY TREAS:FMARESCA:CLJ

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:JPCRAWFORD

TREAS:RSELF

ARA/NC/C:JMAISTO

ARA/NC:FJDEVINE

EB/OT/STA:TEDEAL

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O R 121912Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150964

TAGS:ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: CUT FLOWERS

1. COLOMBIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY ENRIQUE LOW MET WITH
TREASURY OFFICIALS JULY 8 TO PRESENT SPECIFIC DETAILS OF
GOC PROPOSAL TO REMOVE COUNTERVAILABLE PORTION OF EXPORT
PROMOTION SCHEME CURRENTLY BENEFITING CUT FLOWER EXPORTERS.
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WHEREBY GOC WOULD TRANSFER THE OTHER-
WISE COUNTERVAILABLE PORTION OF THE CAT TO GOVERNMENTAL
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AGENCIES (IDEMA). THIS WOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED BY PROMULGATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO
LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 19. IDEMA WOULD USE NEW FUNDS THUS
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ACQUIRED TO MEET EXISTING LEGAL OBLIGATIONS. UPON NOTIFI-

CATION OF PUBLICATION OF IMPLEMENTING DECREE AND THEREBY ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE, TREASURY WILL ISSUE NOTICE OF A "CONDITIONAL" NEGATIVE DETERMINATION WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE 30 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION. THIS 30-DAY PERIOD WOULD PROVIDE TREASURY OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE HOW THE NEW MECHANISM WILL OPERATE IN PRACTICE AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE TIME FOR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO COMMENT IF THEY SO DESIRE.

2. GOC RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT FLOWER GROWERS MIGHT INDIRECTLY BENEFIT FROM IDEMA PARTICIPATION IN SAVANA DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS. AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED BY COLOMBIAN

DELEGATION (BEING POUCHED) OUTLINES FOUR POSSIBLE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE. TREASURY OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT GOC SHOULD THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT SUCH PROPOSALS BECAUSE CERTAIN MEASURES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY U.S. AS DISGUISED BOUNTY OR GRANT AND COULD CAUSE IMPOSITION OF THE COUNTER-VAILING DUTY. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THESE SCHEMES WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. GOC REPS POINTED TO PROVISIONS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE PROPOSING MANDATORY CONSULTATION IN EVENT EITHER PARTY WISHED TO EXPLORE CURRENT OR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF IDEMA. LOW STATED HIS BELIEF THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, WITH ONLY 4 WEEKS IN OFFICE REMAINING, WOULD ACTUALLY UNDERTAKE NEW PROGRAMS THROUGH IDEMA TO DEVELOP THE SAVANA OR IN ANY OTHER WAYS INDIRECTLY BENEFIT FLOWER EXPORTERS.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO FOLLOW UP WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH LOW BY (A) CABLING TEXT OF SIGNED PRESIDENTIAL DECREE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE AND (B) MONITORING AND REPORTING ANY PLANS OR PROGRAMS GOC MAY HAVE WHICH WOULD DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BESTOW ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FLOWER EXPORTERS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, PLANTS (FLORA), MEETINGS, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE150964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FMARESCA:CLJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740187-0326
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740752/aaaabssu.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: CUT FLOWERS
TAGS: ETRD, CO, IDEMA
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005